

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

October 2013 – Week 4

Air Date: October 20 – October 26 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: DUELING FAIRS

OCTOBER 1886 LET'S GO TO THE STATE FAIR – BUT WHICH ONE?

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

OCTOBER 25, 1886. DALLAS. STATE FAIRS ARE NOTHING NEW. THE FIRST WAS HELD IN TYLER IN 1870. HOUSTON HAD SOME TOO. NOW DALLAS WANTS ITS OWN FAIR. WHEN ORGANIZERS CAN'T AGREE ON A LOCATION, THEY SPLIT AND PLAN TWO FAIRS.

TODAY, THE TEXAS STATE FAIR OPENS NORTH OF TOWN. THE DALLAS STATE FAIR OPENS A DAY LATER EAST OF TOWN, AT PRESENT DAY FAIR PARK. BOTH HAVE LIVESTOCK AND FOOD EXHIBITS. BOTH EARN MONEY FROM NEW RACETRACKS. CROWDS FLOCK TO THE FAIRS, BUT NEITHER MAKE A PROFIT.

IN 1887, THE FAIRS MERGE, SETTLING ON FAIR PARK. IN 1930, THE RACETRACK IS REPLACED BY THE COTTON BOWL. CORNY DOGS AND BIG TEX SOON FOLLOW.

THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS BEGAN 127 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Nancy Wiley, "STATE FAIR OF TEXAS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/lks02>), accessed October 10, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"HISTORY OF THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS," *State Fair of Texas* (<http://www.bigtex.com/sft/AboutUs/StateFair.asp>), accessed October 10, 2013.